

USAG SCHINNEN

**AFAP CONFERENCE 2006
OUTBRIEF RESULTS**

USAG SCHINNEN 2006 AFAP CONFERENCE OUTBRIEF RESULTS

- TOP 3 CONFERENCE ISSUES TO
USAEUR – U.S. Businesses not
recognizing OCONUS Postal System,
TSP Parity for Military, Medical
Monday
- TOP 4 SERVICES-Medical/Dental
Services, DODDS, Post Office, ACS

UPDATE

- One issue voted out is an active HDQA issue.
- One issue voted out was a local SHAPE issue which has been resolved.
- The USAG SCHINNEN AFAP Program elevates the next two top issues and also submits the remaining 3 USAREUR level issues voted from the 5 group's top issues.

AFAP 2006 Conference Issue Paper #1

- **TITLE:** American businesses not recognizing the OCONUS Military Postal System
- **SCOPE:** A significant number of American businesses do not adequately recognize overseas military addresses within the Military Postal System. Service members stationed overseas cannot always make purchases and/or use military addresses for billing purposes. Limited consumer choices negatively influence the quality of life of those living overseas defending the American Way of Life.
- **RECOMMENDATION:** Develop & execute a marketing plan at the DOD level that educates American businesses on the benefits of shipping to the Military Postal System and USPS.

AFAP 2006 Conference Issue Paper #2

TITLE: Living Quarter Allowance (LQA) for Local Hires GS-7 and GS-8

SCOPE:

Local hire GS-8 and below are not authorized LQA (Living Quarters Allowance). USAEUR Regulation 690-500.592 states that GS-9 and above are entitled to receive LQA. Some GS-7 and GS-8 positions are filled by minimally qualified personnel, remain vacant, or experience high turnover rates due to lack of an LQA incentive. Not receiving LQA decreases quality of life for local hire GS-8 and below and their families.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. Change USAEUR Regulation 690-500.592 to allow local hire GS-7 and above to receive LQA.**

AFAP 2006 Conference Issue Paper

3

TITLE: Isolation of US School age children attending international schools

SCOPE: Current international schools with US teens do not provide similar recreational and support services as the DoDDS i.e. sports, travel, summer programs, ASACS, apprenticeship. DoDDs and international schools are governed differently. Therefore, US children are deprived of these opportunities offered to current DoDDS students. As a result these teens may be involved in unhealthy alternative activities i.e. alcohol, and drugs.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. Formalize partnership agreements between international schools and DoDDS to share support activities. i.e. JROTC, sports, and extra curricular activities.**
- 2. DoDDS should take a more aggressive role of looking into the best interests and cost effectiveness of the youth attending international schools.**

AFAP 2006 Conference Issue Paper #4

TITLE: US Military Teens Driving Privileges in Europe

SCOPE: US military teens are not allowed to drive in Europe until the age of 18. Current SOFA yields to the host countries driving policies which requires driving at age 18 and above; completion of an extensive (40 lessons min.) and expensive driving course (2000 E avg.). The military population in Europe are predominantly at the second half of their military career with mostly teenage children. US teens are mostly involved in activities requiring transportation. This affects the overall military families: their schedules and overall readiness is being impacted; Teens are behind their US counterparts.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. US to renegotiate the SOFA with the Host countries allowing the teens to drive using the US driving licensing regulations.**
- 2. All DoDDS to offer Driver Ed.**
- 3. Teens attending international schools be authorized to attend DoDDS Drivers Ed Classes.**

AFAP 2006 Conference Issue Paper #5

TITLE: Provide text books in CD-Rom format for DoDDS students

SCOPE: Text books are too large and heavy to be carried daily in the backpacks. This leads to back problems resulting in military health cost increase. Children are issued on average 6 large textbooks transported between school and home daily. Accessibility of text book in the latest technology expedites academic progress.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. Authorize DoDDS funding to supply CD copies of textbooks for home use.**
- 2. Issue students with compatible PDA and train them how to use them as an educational tool. Parents will be responsible for the cost and proper usage.**

AFAP 2006 Conference Issue Paper #6

- **TITLE:** Multiple vehicle registration for single federal employees
- **SCOPE:** Single federal employees stationed in USAREUR are only authorized to register one tax free vehicle. Federal employees are forced to rent a vehicle, rely upon others for transportation, or be dependent on other costly means of travel. This causes financial hardship in times of transition and during necessary vehicle repairs.
- **RECOMMENDATIONS:** Allow for single federal employees in USAREUR to register a maximum of 2 tax free vehicles at any given time.